

# Child Poverty and Social Mobility

## *Implications of the Welfare Reform and Work Act for low income children and families in the North East*

A joint seminar organised by the **Institute for Local Governance (ILG)** and  
**North East Child Poverty Commission (NECPC)**

**10<sup>th</sup> June 2016, 1-3.45pm**

**Lindisfarne Centre, Durham University**

The government's Welfare Reform and Work Act achieved Royal Assent in March 2016 and has now passed into law. It holds significant implications for how child poverty is defined, measured and addressed in the UK. The Act marks a policy movement away from income-based measures of poverty and the removal of statutory obligations on local authorities to reduce child poverty. Instead, it emphasises tackling worklessness, improving educational attainment and supporting 'Troubled' families as the most effective ways to increase the life chances of children living in poverty.

This seminar will explore the potential implications of the Act for the life chances of children living in low income families in the North East, focusing on three key aspects of the Act: the changing definition and measurement of child poverty; extension of the Troubled Families programme (and its effectiveness); and the impact of welfare reform on low income families.

### **Draft programme**

Registration from 12.45pm

- 1-1.10pm Chair's welcome (Phillip Edwards, Institute for Local Governance)
- 1.10-1.30pm **Introduction to the Welfare Reform and Work Act** (Dr Deborah Harrison, NECPC)
- 1.30-2pm **Changing definitions and measurement of child poverty** (Bishop Paul Butler)
- 2-2.30pm **The 'Troubled Families' programme** (Stephen Crossley, Durham University)
- 2.30-2.45pm Coffee break
- 2.45-3.15pm **Welfare reform, foodbank use and low income families in Stockton-on-Tees** (Dr Kayleigh Garthwaite, Durham University)
- 3.15-3.40pm Panel discussion
- 3.40-3.45pm Closing remarks (Phillip Edwards)

This seminar is intended to be of interest to a wide audience including researchers and academics, Local Authorities and other public sector agencies, housing providers, third sector organisations, schools and children's services.

**This event is free but places are limited and tend to book up quickly.** To register, please email [janet.atkinson@durham.ac.uk](mailto:janet.atkinson@durham.ac.uk).

If you would like to find out more about the North East Child Poverty Commission, you can visit our website: [www.nechildpoverty.org.uk](http://www.nechildpoverty.org.uk) or contact the Coordinator [deborah.harrison@durham.ac.uk](mailto:deborah.harrison@durham.ac.uk).

Established in 2009, the ILG is a research and knowledge exchange partnership between the region's universities, local authorities, police and fire and rescue services. It seeks to facilitate relevant research through collaboration between academics, policy makers and practitioners. Further information about the ILG is available at: [www.ilg.org.uk](http://www.ilg.org.uk).